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JOSEPH SULLIVAN

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GALLUP WORLD SURVEY: MEETING HUMAN NEEDS
(PART 2 OF 2)

ANNCR:

THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST WORLD POLL OF HUMAN VALUES AND ATTITUDES WERE RELEASED THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON. VOA'S JOSEPH SULLIVAN, IN THIS (THE SECOND OF TWO) REPORT(S), LOOKS AT SOME OF THE SURVEY'S FINDINGS WHICH HIGHLIGHT CONTRASTING ASPIRATIONS AND ATTITUDES BETWEEN THE PEOPLES IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD AND THOSE OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS.

VOICE:

THE MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE WORLD SURVEY WERE UNVEILED BY AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION POLLSTER GEORGE GALLUP IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. (OPT) THE SURVEY WAS FUNDED BY THE CHARLES F. KETTERING FOUNDATION AND CONDUCTED IN MOST AREAS BY SURVEY ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE GALLUP INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE. (END OPT) INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED WITH TEN THOUSAND PERSONS AT EVERY ECONOMIC LEVEL IN SOME SEVENTY COUNTRIES. THE SURVEY DOES NOT TAKE IN THE COMMUNIST WORLD OR THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT ITS FINDINGS DO COVER APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION.

IN ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD SURVEYED, REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES IN PER CAPITA INCOME, PEOPLE CITED AS THEIR NATION'S MOST URGENT PROBLEMS THOSE RELATED TO MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, PEOPLE IN EACH REGION WERE MOST CONCERNED WITH THEIR COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO OVERCOME THE HIGH COST OF LIVING AND INFLATION. NEXT WERE THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT AND SHORTAGES OF VITAL GOODS, INCLUDING FOOD SUPPLIES.

BUT DESPITE THE HIGH DEGREE OF CONFORMITY AROUND THE WORLD IN EXPRESSING IMPORTANT NATIONAL CONCERNS, THE VIEWS ON DESIRABLE

PATHS TO FOLLOW WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRIALIZATION, POPULATION GROWTH AND URBANIZATION WERE MARKEDLY DIVIDED. THOSE IN THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES APPEAR EAGER TO FOLLOW THE PATHS ESTABLISHED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD TO ACHIEVE RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH, WHILE THOSE IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS GIVE EVERY INDICATION OF WANTING TO MAKE A SHARP BREAK FROM THOSE SAME DIRECTIONS.

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE WORLD SURVEY FOUND THAT THE POPULATION RATHER STRONGLY DISFAVORS CONTINUED INDUSTRIALIZATION IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES AND ONLY MILDLY SUPPORTS CONTINUED INDUSTRIAL GROWTH ON A NATIONAL BASIS. THIS ATTITUDE IS CLOSELY MIRRORED IN WESTERN EUROPE, WHERE ONLY FORTY PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE INTERVIEWED FAVOR FURTHER INDUSTRIALIZATION IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

THIS PICTURE IS SHARPLY REVERSED, HOWEVER, IN THE RESPONSES OF THOSE INTERVIEWED IN LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA AND THE FAR EAST. IN THOSE REGIONS -- WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JAPAN -- THE PREFERENCE FOR AN EXPANDED NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL BASE OUTWEIGHS OPPOSITION BY A RATIO OF NINE TO ONE.

A SIMILAR POLARITY EXISTS BETWEEN THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING REGIONS IN PREFERENCE ON POPULATION GROWTH. EIGHTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF THE U.S. RESPONDENTS SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION GROW. SIMILARLY, WESTERN EUROPE -- WHERE POPULATION GROWTH RATES HAVE LEVELED DRAMATICALLY -- NEARLY SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED OPPOSE FURTHER POPULATION INCREASES IN THEIR COUNTRY.

AFRICA, ON THE OTHER HAND PRESENTS AN ALMOST TOTALLY OPPOSITE PICTURE, WITH OVER SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS FAVORING INCREASED NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN THEIR COUNTRY. IN LATIN AMERICA

SIXTY-ONE PERCENT OF THOSE INTERVIEWED HOLD INCREASED POPULATIONS IN THEIR COUNTRY AS A DESIRABLE GOAL. MISTER GALLUP SAYS THE FINDINGS TEND TO INDICATE THE BELIEF IN MANY LESS DEVELOPED RURAL SOCIETIES THAT "WITH EVERY MOUTH GOD SENDS A PAIR OF HANDS," AND THAT WITH THOSE HANDS, "FAMILIES HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF MEETING MINIMUM HUMAN NEEDS."

THERE WERE ALSO STRONG VARIATIONS BETWEEN THE ATTITUDES OF THOSE LIVING IN INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND INHABITANTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE TYPE OF COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO LIVE. IN THE UNITED STATES, SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION NOW LIVE IN CITIES. YET, ONLY ABOUT FORTY PERCENT OF THOSE INTERVIEWED PREFER CITY ENVIRONMENTS OVER LESS DENSELY SETTLED AREAS. MUCH THE SAME PATTERN WAS FOUND IN WESTERN EUROPE. BUT IN AFRICA -- WHERE CLOSE TO EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION NOW LIVES IN RURAL AREAS -- FULLY SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO LIVE IN A TOWN OR CITY. OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE INTERVIEWED, ONLY SEVEN PERCENT SAID THEY WOULD PREFER TO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS. IN THE FAR EAST, FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS PREFER LIVING IN CITIES, ALTHOUGH THREE OF EVERY FOUR PEOPLE IN THE AREA NOW LIVE IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE SURVEY INDICATED A VERY STRONG APPRECIATION OF THE FACT THAT THE WELL-BEING OF ONE'S INDIVIDUAL NATION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE ACTIONS OF THOSE OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS.

HOWEVER, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ONE'S PERSONAL DESTINY AND THAT OF THE LARGER WORLD IS LESS SHARPLY PERCEIVED. GENERALLY

SPEAKING, THE RESPONDENTS IN ALL AREAS SEE THEIR PERSONAL LOT AS HAVING IMPROVED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND CONTINUING IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION IN THE FUTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, MANY MORE PEOPLE EXPRESSED PESSIMISM THAN OPTIMISM OVER THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD. IN SUM, MOST OF THOSE INTERVIEWED FAILED TO CONNECT OPTIMISTIC VIEWS OF THEIR OWN FUTURE WITH WHAT THEY SEE AHEAD FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.

SOME OF THE FINDINGS OF THE FIRST GLOBAL SURVEY OF HUMAN VALUES AND ATTITUDES.

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